

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 PC-10 USIE-00 IO-14

INR-10 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

DRC-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /173 W

----- 068595

O R 071240Z JUN 74

FM USINT ALGIERS

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 632

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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ABIDJAN FOR REDSO/WA, PARIS FOR HELMAN, ROME FOR FODAG PASS
STEVENSON, USEC BRUSSELS FOR MARTIN, DAKAR PASS PAGE

AF DROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: TRANS-SAHARAN GRAIN SHIPMENT TO MALI AND NIGER

REFS: (A) STATE 113955; (B) BAMAKO 1500 (C) STATE 118926

(D) ALGIERS 1234

AID/W NOTIFY J. SNYDER, AFR/CWR, X21761

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THIS CABLE REPRESENTS SUMMARY DISCUSSIONS HELD
IN ALGIERS WITH REPRESENTATIVES ALGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY,
SNTR (TRUCKING COMPANY) AND SONATMAG (PORT AGENT). INFORMATION
ON ORAN SUPPLIED BY AMCONSUL. NO GOA PROBLEM IN HAVING
SHIPMENT THROUGH ALGERIA-IN FACT, BECAUSE OF HIMANITARIAN
NATURE SHIPMENTS WILL BE SPEEDILY APPROVED. SONATMAG
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ENVISAGES NO PROBLEMS HANDLING SHIPMENT IN PORT-BUT

PREFERS BAGGED CARGO OVER BULK AND ORAN OVER ALGIERS--
AND WILL PROVIDE FIRM COST ESTIMATE AFTER OFFICIAL LETTER
FROM USINTS (IN PREPARATION). SNTE CAN ADAPT TO WHATEVER
SCHEDULE WE WISH, WITH MINIMUM GUARANTEE TO MOVE 500 MT
EVERY TWO WEEKS. GREATER MOVEMENT DEPENDENT UPON
AVAILABILITY OF TRUCKS. END SUMMARY.

2. APPROACHED TRANS-SAHARA DELIVERIES FROM THREE SEPARATE
DIRECTIONS: (1) SECURE GOA PERMISSION FOR DELIVERIES AND
TRANS-SHIPMENT; (2) DETERMINE PORT LIMITATIONS, FIND AGENT
AND GET QUOTE FOR DISCHARGE, STORAGE, AND LOADING OF TRUCKS;
AND (3) DISCUSS TRUCKING SITUATION FURTHER WITH SNTR TO
DETERMINE LIMITATIONS ON MOVING GRAIN AND GET FIRM PRICE
ESTIMATES.

3. THE GOA MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) ESTIMATES
10 DAYS TO TWO WEEKS WILL BE NEEDED TO AUTHORIZE THE SHIPMENT
TO AND THROUGH ALGERIA. UPON RECEIPT OF A NOTE VERBALE
FROM USINT CONTAINING NAME OF SHIP, ETA, NUMBER OF TONS/
COMMODITY, AND DESTINATION THE MFA WILL BEGIN CLEARANCE
PROCEDURE. FYI. GOA VIEWS EXERCISE AS HUMANITARIAN
OPERATION AND STATED THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY ARRANGING
PERMISSION. EACH SHIPMENT WILL BE DESCRIBED IN A SEPARATE
NOTE VERBALE, AND AUTHORIZED SEPARATELY. REQUEST AID/W
PROVIDE INFORMATION ON FIRST SHIPMENT ASAP. END FYI.

4. SNTR PROMISES MINIMUM 25 TRUCKS AVAILABLE ON 15 DAYS
NOTICE. PRICE FOR TRANSPORT ALGIERS-AGADEZ IS APPROX.
DOLS 240 MT, DEPENDING ON CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE. SNTR
WORKING UP ESTIMATES FOR REMAINING ROUTES. SNTR CONVOYS
ARE SELF-SUPPORTING AND DO NOT REPEAT DO NOT REQUIRE POL
SUPPLIES OUTSIDE ALGERIA. SNTR STOCKS SUPPLIES AT FRONTIERS,
ENTER COUNTRY WITH FULL TANKS AND REFUELS ON WAY OUT.

5. SNTR REP ADVISED THAT TRUCK AVAILABILITY CONTINGENT
UPON OTHER DEMANDS FOR TRANSPORT TO SOUTHERN ALGERIA. ROUTE
TO AGADEZ WORSE THAN ONE TO GAO, BUT NO PREFERENCE BY SNTR
FOR DELIVERIES. THEY WILL DELIVER WHERE WE WANT THEM TO.
IN EITHER CASE, PRICE PER MT IS SUBJECT ADJUSTMENT DEPENDING
UPON THE CONDITION OF THE ROAD.
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6. PROUTY MAILED LETTER BY SNTR COVERING ITEMS DISCUSSED
DURING HIS VISIT. PRECIS FOLLOWS:

A. SNTR ESTIMATES BASED UPON MOVING 1400-1600 MT FROM
ALGIERS TO AGADEZ BETWEEN 20 JUNE AND 31 JULY AT LATEST,
GRAIN TO BE MOVED IN SACK (NOT BULK).

B. SNTR PROMISES MOVE MINIMUM 500 MT EVERY TWO WEEKS WITH CONVOYS OF 20 MT CAPACITY TRACTOR-TRAILERS NUMBERING 20 TO 35 VEHICLES. AS STATED ABOVE, ADDITIONAL AVAILABILITY CONTINGENT UPON OTHER DEMANDS FOR SOUTHERN ALGERIA.

C. SNTR SUGGESTS THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID STORAGE CHARGES GRAIN ARRIVE IN TWO SHIPMENTS, WITH MAXIMUM INTERVAL BETWEEN DELIVERIES OF TWO WEEKS.

D. THE ALGIERS-AGADEZ COST, LOADED TRUCK FROM PORT OF ALGIERS TO ARRIVAL AGADEZ (ALL TAXES INCLUDED) IS 944.45 DINAR ALGERIAN THE MT. FOR 20 MT, THE COST WOULD BE 18,889 DA. EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATES BETWEEN 3.80 TO 4.19 TO THE U.S. DOLLAR. THIS PRICE IS FOR TRANSPORT ONLY AND DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY PORT CHARGES.

E. THE GRAIN WILL BE INSURED AT A MAXIMUM RATE OF 15 DA THE KILOGRAM, OR A MAXIMUM OF 300,000 DA FOR A 20 MT LOAD. ANY INSURANCE ABOVE THAT AMOUNT MUST BE OBTAINED BY AID SEPARATELY.

F. SNTR WILL BE PLEASED TO HELP AID ARRANGE FOR AN AGENT TO HANDLE THE UNLOADING, STORAGE, LOADING OF VEHICLES, AND OTHER PORT MATTERS.

7. SONATMAG REPRESENTATIVES PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION ABOUT PORT CONDITIONS ORAN/ALGIERS.

A. THERE IS GENERALLY A WAITING TIME BEFORE BERTHING IN ALGIERS. IT DEPENDS UPON TONNAGE. WITH 1500 MT, SONATMAG REP STATED MAXIMUM TWO DAYS WAIT. HE ALSO STATED THAT NATURE OF SHIPMENT (HUMANITARIAN DONATIONS FOR STRICKEN COUNTRIES) WOULD GIVE PRIORITY BERTHING-AND INDICATED GOA POLICY ON THIS WOULD MOVE GRAIN SHIP TO BERTH ASAP AFTER ARRIVAL. PORT UNCLASSIFIED

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OF ALGIERS HAS BEEN BLOCKED FOR SOME TIME, WITH SOME SHIPS WAITING ONE MONTH FOR BERTHING, SO SONATMAG ADVISED STRONG PREFERENCE FOR ORAN, WHERE NO BERTHING PROBLEMS ANTICIPATED. NO ESTIMATE GIVEN AS TO WHEN ALGIERS WOULD BE UNBLOCKED.

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 PC-10 USIE-00 IO-14

INR-10 DODE-00 AGR-20 INT-08 COME-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

DRC-01 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /173 W

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O R 071240Z JUN 74

FM UIINT ALGIERS

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 633

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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B. DRAFT LIMITATIONS IN BASIN OF ORAN AND ALGIERS IS ELEVEN METERS, AND AT QUAY-SIDE IT IS MINIMUM SEVEN METERS, WITH SOME BERTHS UP TO 10 METERS. THERE IS NO PROBLEM ON LENGTH OF SHIP AND ANYTHING UP TO AND BEYOND 200 METERS CAN BE HANDLED EASILY.

C. BOTH ORAN AND ALGIERS CAN ACCEPT GRAIN IN BULK, WITH THE DISCHARGE RATE BEING APPROX. 300 MT PER HOUR. THERE ARE SIX HOURS AND 40 MINUTES WORK IN THE NORMAL PORT DAY-SO APPROX. 1500 MT PER DAY COULD BE DISCHARGED IN BULK, ORAN HAS THREE SUCKERS DISCHARGING INTO A SILO, AND CAN ACCEPT THREE BULK SHIPS AT ONE TIME-WITH TWO OF THEM BEING DISCHARGED BY CLAM SHELLS AND SHORE CRANES.

D. SONATMAG DID NOT KNOW THE BAGGING RATE PER DAY FOR BULK GRAIN, BUT WILL SUPPLY THE INFORMATION LATER IN RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRE. ALL SACKS USED IN ALGERIA ARE IKPORTED, THERE IS NO LOCAL PROCUREMENT.

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E. FOR BOTH PORTS, BAGGED CARGO CAN BE DISCHARGED AT THE RATE OF 150 T PER HOLD PER DAY. THIS ENCOMPASSES TWO CREWS PER SHIFT (ONE IN THE HOLD AND THE OTHER ON THE QUAY), AND TWO SHIFTS PER DAY. AGAIN, THE SIX HOUR 40 MINUTE DAY. FOR

AN ADDITIONAL PRICE, FURTHER SHIFTS CAN BE ADDED. USINT REQUESTING COST PER ADDITIONAL SHIFT. PER REFTEL (C), GUARANTEE OF 500 MT PER DAY OFFLOADING COULD BE WRITTEN INTO CONTRACT, WITH PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO ATTAIN.

F. STORAGE OF GRAIN POSES NO PROBLEM IN ORAN. GRAIN CAN BE STORED UNDER COVER, IN WAREHOUSES, FOR A CHARGE OF 4.00 DA PER MONTH PER SQUARE METER OF SPACE, PLUS A SEVEN-TENTHS OF ONE-PERCENT VALUE OF COMMODITY ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR STORAGE. THE STORAGE IS BY MONTHS, AND ONE PAYS BY THE MONTH WHETHER IT IS FULLY USED OR NOT. OPEN AIR STORAGE, ON PLATFORMS AND UNDER TARPS, IS FREE FOR THE FIRST WEEK, WITH A MINIMAL STORAGE CHARGE THEREAFTER. THE SAME STORAGE CHARGES APPLY IN ALGIERS, BUT THERE IS NO STORAGE SPACE (OPEN OR CLOSED) AVAILABLE IN THE PORT AT THIS TIME AND THE GRAIN WOULD BE MOVED OUTSIDE-SONATMAG MENTIONED THE AIRPORT AS A POSSIBLE STORAGE PLACE. THE RAINY SEASON IS LONG GONE IN ALGERIA AND THERE WOULD APPEAR TO BE NO DIFFICULTY WITH OPEN AIR STORAGE UNDER TARPS.

G. SONATMAG SAID DIRECT LOADING OF TRUCK FROM SHIP COULD BE DONE, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT AND WOULD NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED AS QUICKLY AS REGULAR DISCHARGE, STACKING, AND THEN LOADING OF TRUCKS.

H. SUBJECT TO DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE, USINT WILL PREPARE OFFICIAL LETTER TO SONATMAG ASKING FOR COST ESTIMATES FOR HANDLING 1000 MT, 2000 MT AND 3000 MT OF GRAIN IN SACK, COMPLETE COSTS FOR DISCHARGE, STACKING IN OPEN, AND LOADING TRUCKS, PLUS NECESSARY PORT FEES. WE WILL ASK FOR QUOTES FOR ALL ORAN/ALL ALGIERS, AND INTERMEDIATE TONNAGES TO EACH. WILL ALSO REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION ON DAILY BAGGING RATE FOR GRAIN IN EITHER PORT WITH BAGS SUPPLIED. SONATMAG SAID RESPONSE COULD BE PREPARED VERY QUICKLY, WITHIN A DAY OR TWO.

8. CONSUL IN ORAN DISCUSSED SHIPMENTS WITH PORT AUTHORITIES ON JUNE 6. HIS INFORMATION SUPPLEMENTS INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY SONATMAG. WHILE DISCHARGE BAGGES GRAIN IS ESTIMATED AT UNCLASSIFIED

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150 MT PER HOLD PER DAY, GOA HAS RECENTLY PROFESSIONALIZED ALL STEVEDORES AND PUT THEM ON SALARIED BASIS. NATIONAL STEVEDORE COMPANY NOW HIRING PROFESSIONAL STEVEDORES ONLY, AND THIS HAS LED TO SOME DELAYS IN DISCHARGE AS FEWER WORKERS AVAILABLE. ORAN PORT AUTHORITIES STATED IT WOULD BE PRUDENT COUNT ON FIVE REPEAT FIVE DAYS TO OFFLOAD 1,000 MT.

9. ORAN PORT AUTHORITIES (AND ALGIERS TOO) WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST EIGHT DAYS NOTICE BY SHIP'S AGENT IN ORDER RESERVE BERTH AT SILO/PIER. ADDITIONAL NOTIFICATION BY CABLE 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE, AND 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE FROM SHIP ITSELF.

10. CONSUL CONCLUDES OVERWHELMING IMPRESSION GIVEN BY PORT AUTHORITIES WAS FOR SHIPMENT IN BAG. SONATMAG OFFICIALS STATED SAME THING, WITH CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR DELIVERIES ORAN RATHER THAN ALGIERS.

11. COMMENT. BASED ON DISCUSSIONS HERE AND INFORMATION DEVELOPED DURING VISIT, IT APPEARS THAT THE INITIAL SHIPMENT OF 1000 MT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO ORAN. AFTER DISCHARGING, THE INITIAL TRANS-SAHARA SHIPMENT, REGARDLESS OF TONNAGE, SHOULD BE DESTINED TO GAO (RAIN WILL MAKE TRACK FROM TESSALIT-GAO VERY DIFFICULT TO TRAVERSE AFTER O/A 20 JULY), WITH THE REMAINDER MOVING TO AGADEZ UPON RETURN OF THE TRUCKS (SNTR ADVISES THERE IS NO DIFFICULTY WITH DELIVERIES TO AGADEZ DURING RAINY SEASON). THERE DO NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY PROBLEMS AT THIS TIME TO SETTING UP THE TRANS-SHIPMENTS. THE ALGERIANS ARE TREATING IT AS A STRAIGHT COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION, WITH HUMANITARIAN OVERTONES. THEY ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH US AND REACT TO WHATEVER PROPOSALS WE MAKE. SNTR IS WORKING UP ESTIMATES OF DELIVERY COSTS FROM ORAN TO GAO/AGADEZ, AND ALGIERS TO GAO. SONATMAG IS PREPARED TO REPLY TO OUR QUERIES ON COSTS WHEN WE PROVIDE THEM WITH MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING TONNAGE, ETC. AND THE GOA MFA WILL SET IN MOTION THE MACHINERY TO APPROVE THE TRANS-SHIPMENT WHEN MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION IS PROVIDED.

12. FOR BAMAKO. BASED ABOVE INFORMATION, AND SUBJECT AID/W CONCURRENCE, IT WOULD SEEM POSSIBLE TO MOVE APPROX. 500-1000 MT TO GAO IN NEXT SIX WEEKS. ADDITIONAL QUANTITIES UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD DEPEND ON AVAILABILITY NEW SHIPMENTS FROM US, OR DIVERSION OF GRAIN CURRENTLY STOCKPILED IN OTHER PORTS. EAGLETON

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Number: 1974ALGIER01254
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Film Number: D740145-0403
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740667/aaaacfha.tel
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